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REMARKS

The undersigned requests a personal interview with the Examiner in charge of this application.

Claims 1-18 were rejected as being anticipated by Shofner.

Shofner discloses a carpet on which there are lines useful to assist a golfer in developing his hitting skills. According to the patentee, the golfer places his feet on the rug (col. 3, lines 60-65) and the ball is placed on another portion of the rug (col. 4, lines 1-3). In the present invention, a towel is employed (note: the player can use the towel in a normal fashion and then can place it on the ground when used to develop his hitting skill). The towel is placed on the ground. One edge of the towel is lined up with a target (the patentee seems to be silent on this), the golfer positions his feet directly on the ground adjacent an edge, and the ball (or tee) is placed directly on the ground adjacent the opposite edge (which is aligned with the target). In addition, one side of the towel can be folded to decrease the separation between feet and ball, and in fact the towel can be turned up at an angle to accommodate different stances of golfers. Furthermore, in the present invention the divot made each time a ball is struck is examined for determining the best way to hit the ball. This is not taught or suggested in the art.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 (and some depending claims) has been amended to try to put these features in terms of structure, such as, for example, reciting the ground

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surface as part of the combination, and the ball placed directly on the ground surface as well. Depending claim 2 adds the folding feature of the towel.

Claims 6, 9-10, 14-15, and 17-18 have been canceled and replaced by new method claims 19-22.

The steps of the method (as described above in part) recited in independent claim 19 are clearly not taught or suggested in the art of record. Claim 20 adds the use of the divot in the method, claim 21 adds the folding of one edge of the towel to obtain proper placement of the feet, and claim 22 adds the folding of the towel at angle determined by repeated practice swings.

In view of the above, it is believed that the claims are drawn to patentable subject matter and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned or Mr. Kroll if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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